THE ETERNALS™

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

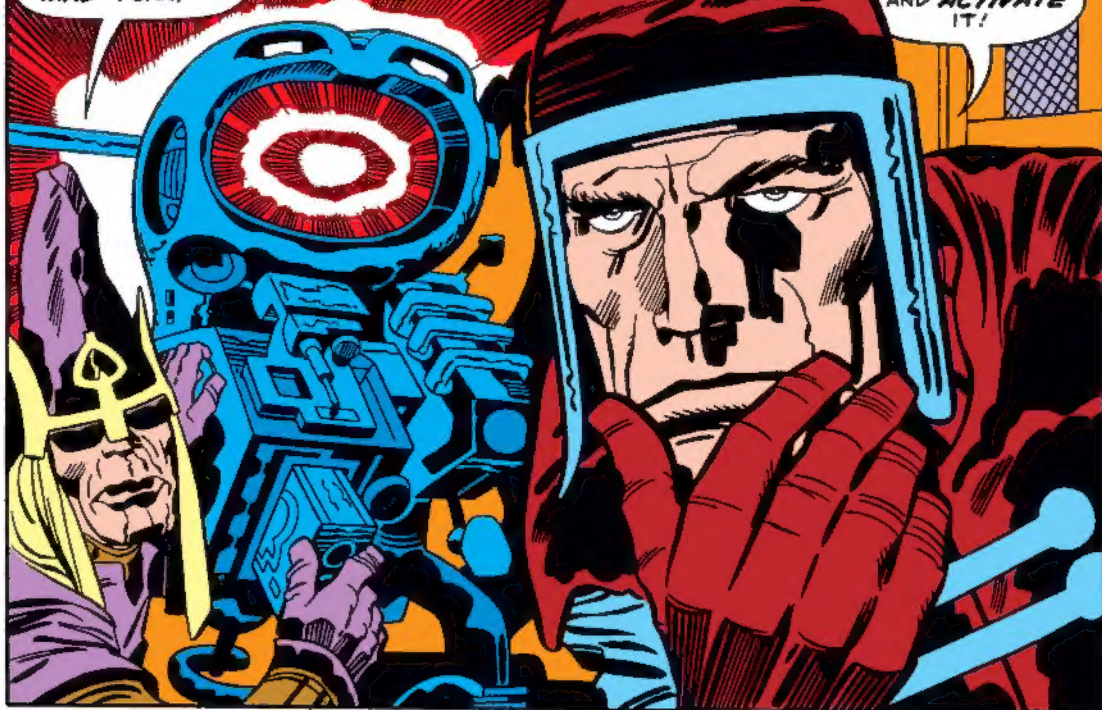
STAN LEE PRESENTS:

THE ETERNALS!™

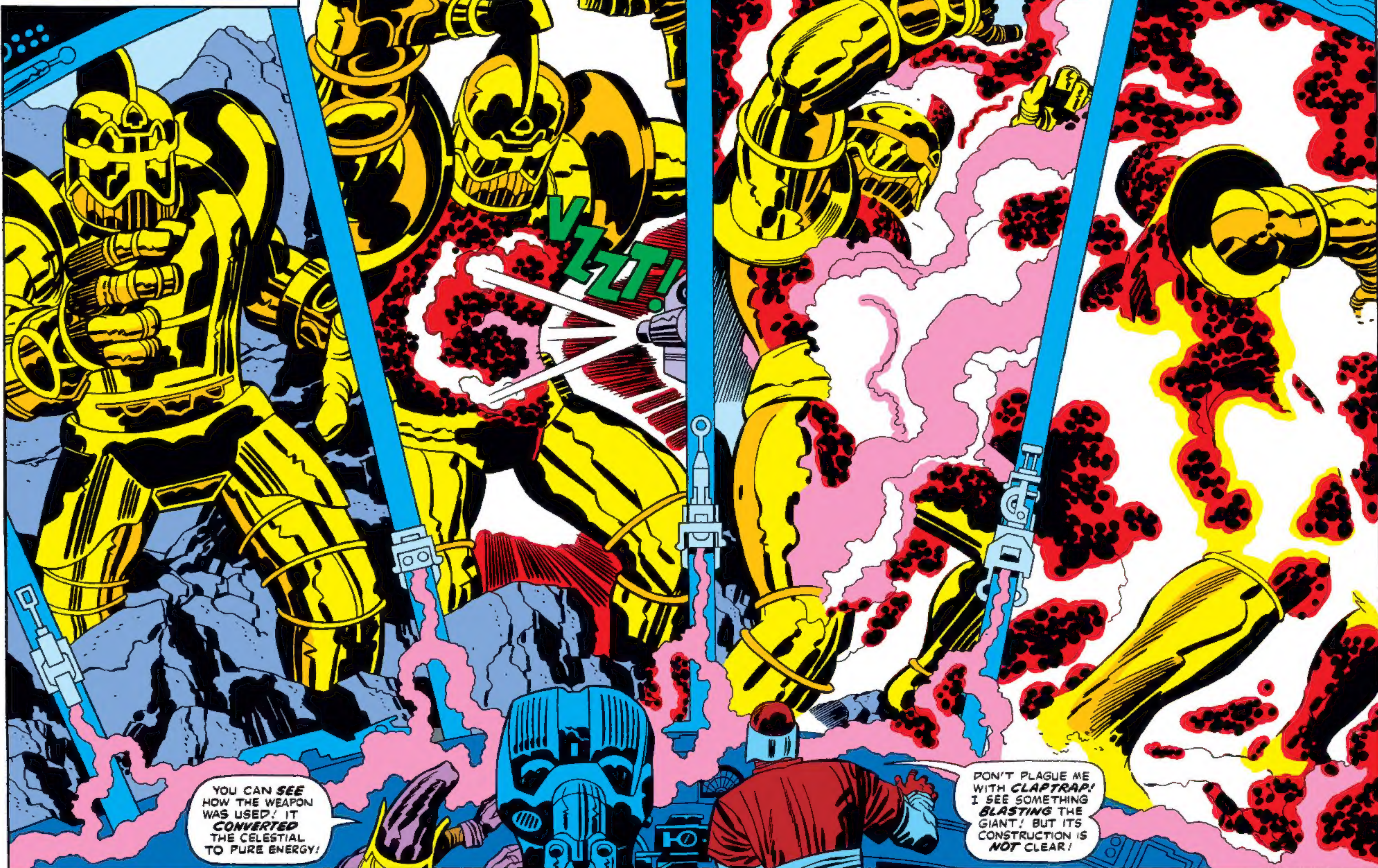
EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** LETTERED 'N INKED BY *MIKE ROYER* COLORED BY *GLYNIS WEIN* MARVEL'S OWN ALTER-EGO *ARCHIE GOODWIN*

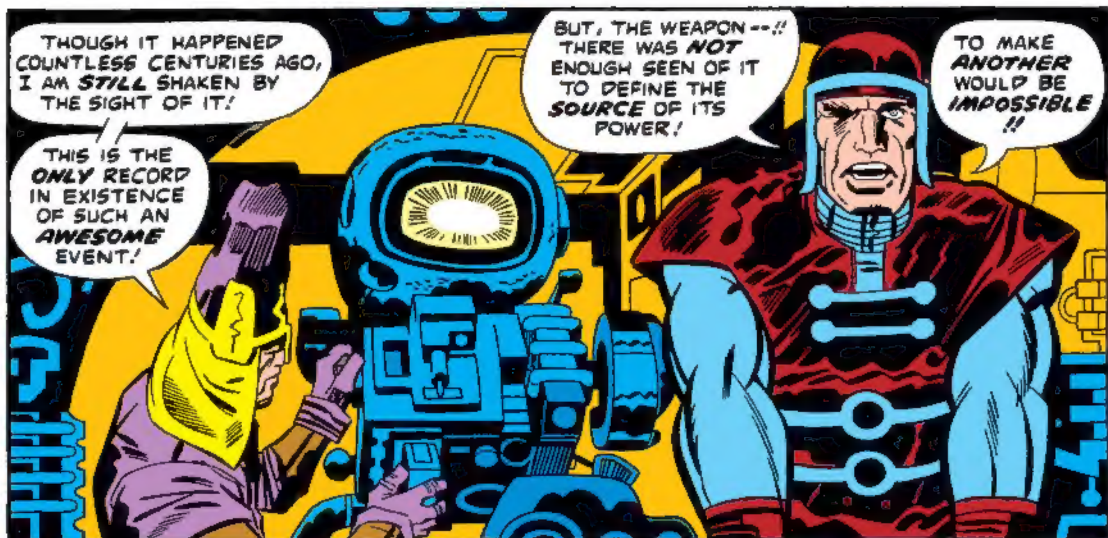
THE SPACE GODS ARE BACK!! ONCE RECORDED IN ANCIENT STONE BY THE ANCESTORS OF MODERN MAN, THE GREAT CELESTIALS NOW ROAM OUR WORLD IN AWESOME MAJESTY, WHILE CAMERAS CLICK AND ENDLESS REAMS OF TAPE STAMP THEIR MASSIVE IMAGES FOR STUDY! BUT, AMONG THE ETERNALS THERE IS ONE WHO WOULD DO ***MORE*** THAN THAT! ***HE WOULD DARE***

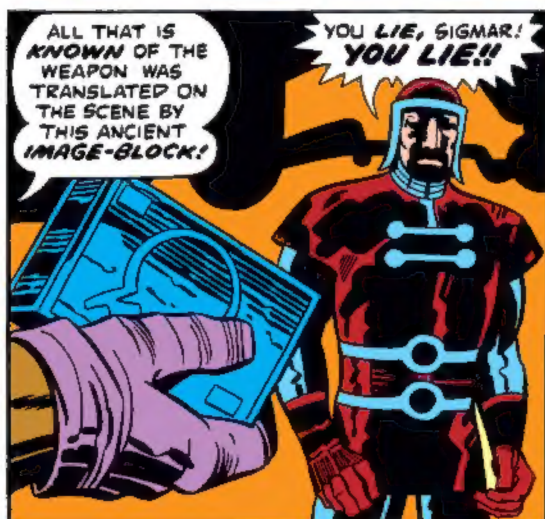
TO KILL A SPACE GOD!

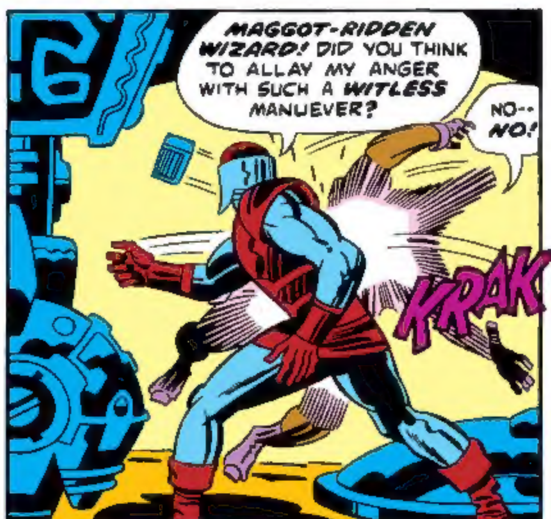


AS THE TRANSLATOR IS ACTIVATED, THE RESURRECTED IMAGE OF AN *ANCIENT* TRAGEDY UNFOLDS. IT WAS DURING THE VISIT OF THE SECOND CELESTIAL HOST TO EARTH THAT THE SPACE GODS FOUGHT AMONG THEMSELVES-- AND ONE OF THEM WAS *DESTROYED!*




THOUGH IT HAPPENED COUNTLESS CENTURIES AGO, I AM STILL SHAKEN BY THE SIGHT OF IT!
THIS IS THE ONLY RECORD IN EXISTENCE OF SUCH AN AWESOME EVENT!
BUT, THE WEAPON--!! THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH SEEN OF IT TO DEFINE THE SOURCE OF ITS POWER!
TO MAKE ANOTHER WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE !!


ALL THAT IS KNOWN OF THE WEAPON WAS TRANSLATED ON THE SCENE BY THIS ANCIENT IMAGE-BLOCK!
YOU LIE, SIGMAR! YOU LIE!!


MAGGOT-RIDDEN WIZARD! DID YOU THINK TO ALLAY MY ANGER WITH SUCH A WITLESS MANUEVER?
NO-- NO!
KRAK


DID YOU THINK I'D ACCEPT THIS JUNK AS THE FINAL EVIDENCE?
FOOL! YOUR MACHINE WAS NOT THE ONLY WITNESS AT THAT ANCIENT INCIDENT! YOU FORGOT TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO USED IT!
BY ALL WE HONOR, DRUIG-- DON'T PURSUE THIS FURTHER!
CRUNCH!


THERE WERE POLAR ETERNALS PRESENT! AND AMONG THEM-- YOU, SIGMAR--
--YOU WERE THERE!


YOU DREAM OF PLAYING WITH A FORCE WHICH ONLY THE SPACE-GODS CAN CONTROL!
THINK, DRUIG, THINK!!
YOU KNOW OF THE WEAPON!


IT IS A CELESTIAL WEAPON! I COULD NOT DUPLICATE IT!
BUT, YOU TRIED, DIDN'T YOU? IT WAS IN YOUR POSSESSION! YOU STILL HAVE IT!!

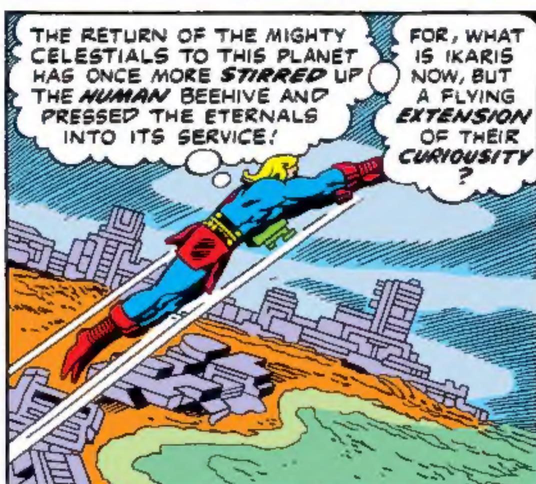

SO, DOG! THUS, THE TRUTH UNFOLDS AND LAYS BARE WHAT I SEEK!
WHERE IS IT, SIGMAR? WHERE IS THE WEAPON !?
I DON'T KNOW, DRUIG! IT WAS TAKEN FROM ME BY YOUR FATHER, GREAT VALKIN!


AT THAT MOMENT, SIGMAR FINDS HIMSELF BATHED IN FLAME!
AAAAAA—!! WHY DO YOU SCOURGE ME?! I-I'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING!
NOT YET, OLD WIZARD! THERE IS STILL A TINY GAP TO CROSS!

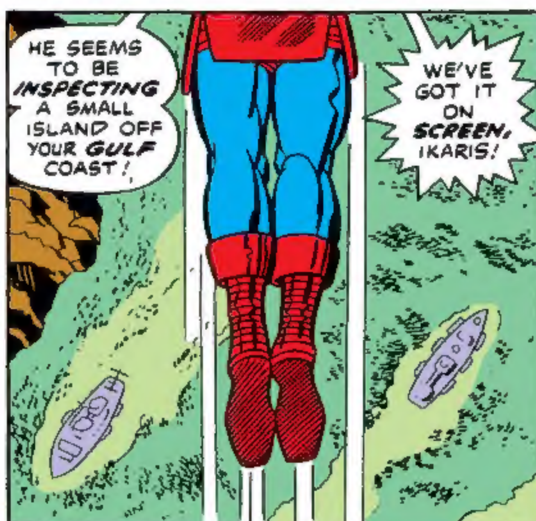

NO! NO! IT WOULD MEAN TO BETRAY THE CONFIDENCE OF VALKIN!
HE HID THE WEAPON !!
YOU WILL--WHEN YOU WEAKEN! SPEAK, CRAVEN ONE--OR THE FLAMES GROW HOTTER!

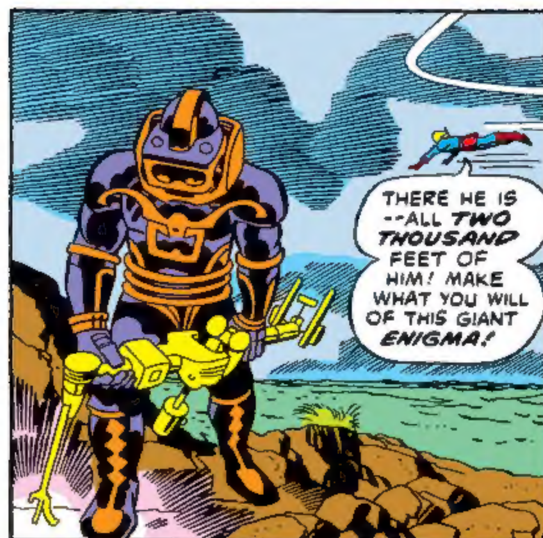

THE KEY TO ITS WHEREABOUTS LIES WITHIN IKARIS!
IKARIS! FATHER'S FAIR-HAIRED NEPHEW! IT WOULD BE IKARIS WHO WAS CHOSEN TO BEAR THIS COSMIC SECRET!


YOU AND I SHALL PRY THIS MYSTERY FROM MY COUSIN--IN ANY MANNER THAT SEEMS FIT!
AS LONG AS YOU POSSESS THE POWER OF THE INFERNO, I AM FORCED TO DO YOUR BIDDING!


MEANWHILE, FAR FROM THE POLAR MOUNTAINS...
THE RETURN OF THE MIGHTY CELESTIALS TO THIS PLANET HAS ONCE MORE STIRRED UP THE HUMAN BEEHIVE AND PRESSED THE ETERNALS INTO ITS SERVICE!
FOR, WHAT IS IKARIS NOW, BUT A FLYING EXTENSION OF THEIR CURIOUSITY ?


HELLO, STATION FOUR--! I'VE CHECKED OUT THIS TELEVISION CAMERA AND AM READY TO SEND PICTURES...
STAND BY TO RECEIVE IN FIVE MINUTES. I'M LEVITATING WITHIN SIGHT OF YOUR TARGET!


HE SEEMS TO BE INSPECTING A SMALL ISLAND OFF YOUR GULF COAST!
WE'VE GOT IT ON SCREEN, IKARIS!


THERE HE IS --ALL TWO THOUSAND FEET OF HIM! MAKE WHAT YOU WILL OF THIS GIANT ENIGMA!


THE CELESTIAL IS AWARE OF MY PRESENCE, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF REACTION!
I'LL RISK A CLOSE-UP AS YOU REQUESTED!


AND AT STATION FOUR, SOMEWHERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ...
THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO THANK YOU AND YOUR ETERNALS FOR THIS COOPERATION, GREAT ZURAS!
THE WELFARE OF HUMANS IS BOUND TO OUR OWN! WE DO SHARE THIS PLANET TOGETHER!
THAT'S A TERRIFIC SHOT! PHOTO-ANALYSIS MAY EVEN DIG OUT SOME FACIAL CONTOURS BEHIND THAT EYE-PIECE!
KEEP IT ROLLING, IKARIS! YOU'RE DOING FINE!

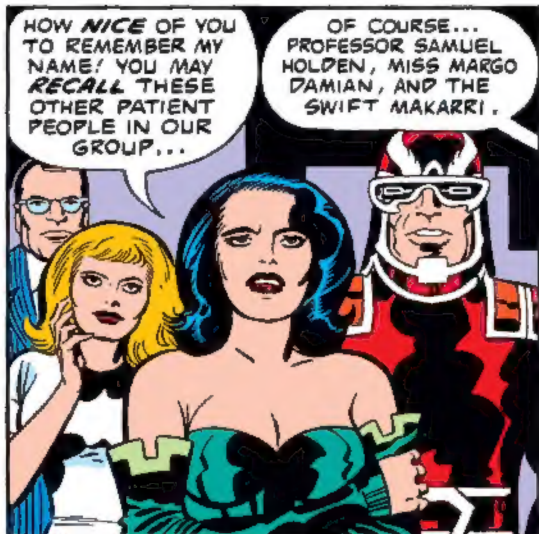

AT PRESENT WE HAVE NO WISH TO APPROACH THESE CREATURES WITH MILITARY HARDWARE. IT COULD PROVOKE A TOUCHY SITUATION!
IT IS WISER TO LEARN FROM CAUTION--THAN CONFLICT!


THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO AVOID AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER... THESE SO-CALLED CELESTIALS ARE POPPING UP EVERYWHERE AND--
BUT -- THEY MAKE NO HOSTILE MOVES! YOU MUST STILL THE FEARS OF YOUR PEOPLE AND KEEP THEM FROM THEIR PATH!

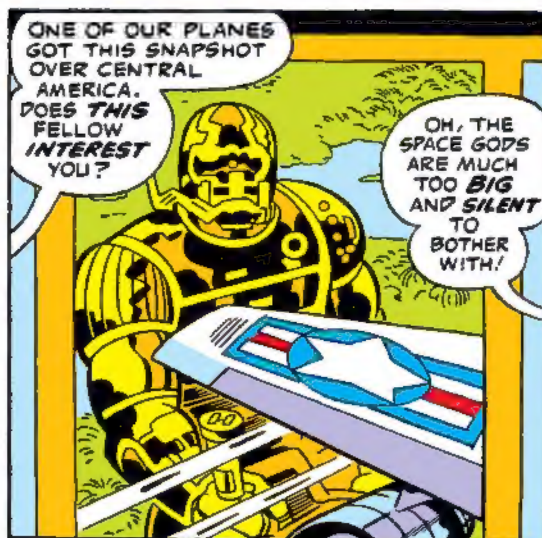

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO, ZURAS? WHO OR WHAT ARE THE CELESTIALS??
I THINK THAT THEY WILL TELL US ALL -- WHEN THEY ARE READY.


YOUR STATEMENT CARRIES OMINOUS ECHOES. IT SMACKS OF SOMETHING OMNIPOTENT AND UNAPPROACHABLE!
THE SPACE GODS ARE NOT OMNIPOTENT! MERELY -- OLDER!!


SUDDENLY...
--AND WHAT ABOUT US!? ARE WE TO BE FILED AWAY IN SOME REMOTE GOVERNMENT OFFICE WHILE YOU DEAL WITH SPACE GODS?
OH... MISS SERSI--

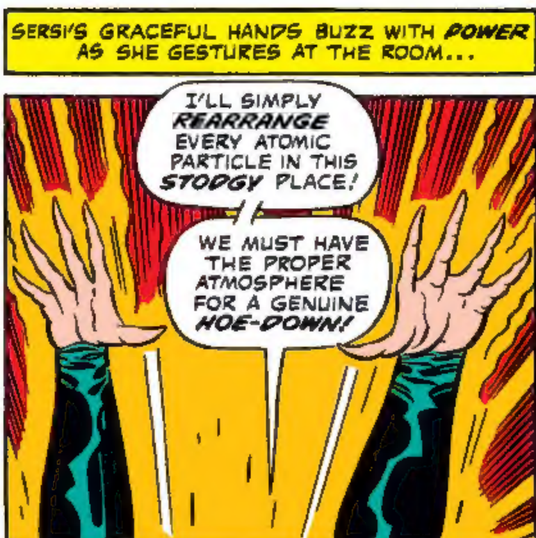

HOW NICE OF YOU TO REMEMBER MY NAME! YOU MAY RECALL THESE OTHER PATIENT PEOPLE IN OUR GROUP...
OF COURSE... PROFESSOR SAMUEL HOLDEN, MISS MARGO DAMIAN, AND THE SWIFT MAKARRI.


YOU CAN READILY SEE WHAT WE'RE CONTENDING WITH. THE CELESTIALS ARE EXPANDING THEIR OPERATION FROM A BASE IN THE ANDES!
MISTER BRADFORD IS EXPRESSING HIS COUNTRY'S ANXIETY!
WELL, I'M NOT ANXIOUS! BUT I AM GETTING BORED!


ONE OF OUR PLANES GOT THIS SNAPSHOT OVER CENTRAL AMERICA. DOES THIS FELLOW INTEREST YOU?
OH, THE SPACE GODS ARE MUCH TOO BIG AND SILENT TO BOTHER WITH!


FORGIVE HER, BRADFORD. IT IS GAIETY, NOT GRAVITY, THAT MOVES THIS FEMALE!
WELL... ORDINARILY, I'D RATHER THROW A PARTY, BUT--
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MAKARRI? HE'D LIKE A PARTY!
A SOUND IDEA.

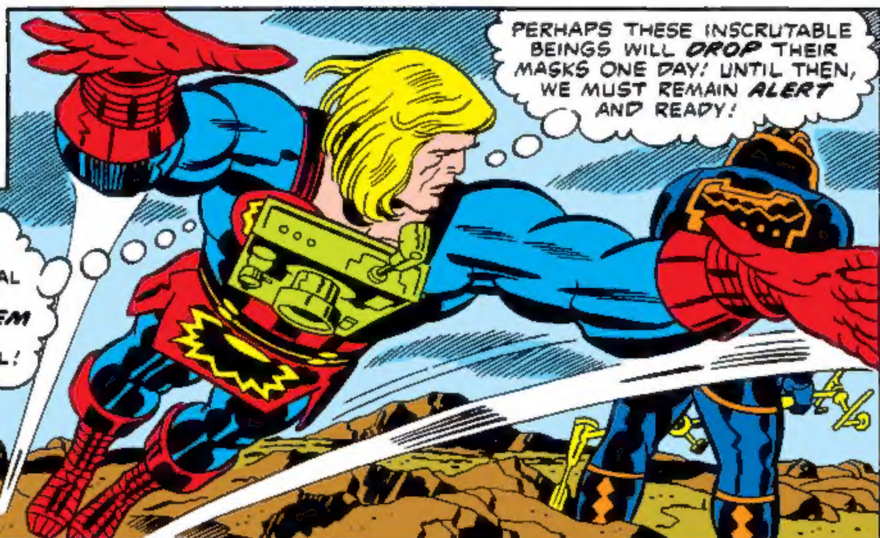

ISN'T THAT A PERFECTLY EXCITING IDEA? I'LL GIVE A PARTY! RIGHT NOW! RIGHT HERE!
WAIT, SERSI--! MISTER BRADFORD DIDN'T MEAN--
SHE'S REALLY GOING TO DO IT! THERE'S NO STOPPING HER!

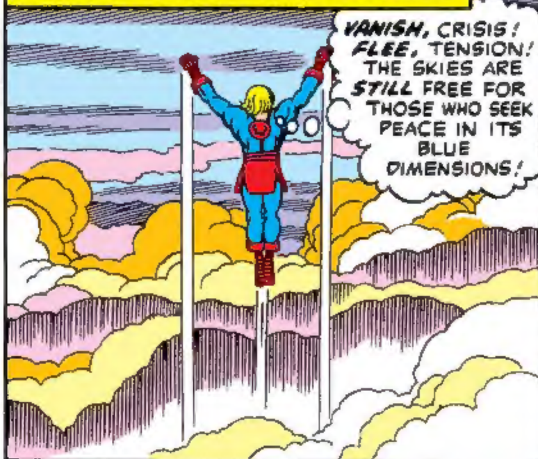

SERSI'S GRACEFUL HANDS BUZZ WITH POWER AS SHE GESTURES AT THE ROOM...
I'LL SIMPLY REARRANGE EVERY ATOMIC PARTICLE IN THIS STODGY PLACE!
WE MUST HAVE THE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR A GENUINE HOE-DOWN!


THEN...
OH, NO! SHE'S CHANGED THE OFFICE INTO A BARN!
WHAT IN BLAZES!?
WELL DONE, GIRL!
THE FIDDLER'S TUNING UP! I BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO "DO-SI-DO!"
THERE ARE INDEED MYSTERIES WITHIN CERTAIN FEMALES WHICH SURMOUNT HOLOCAUSTS AND SPACE GODS!


GREAT ZURAS HAS SPOKEN! SHALL WE DANCE, MAKARRI?
AT THIS MOMENT, IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS NOT TO!

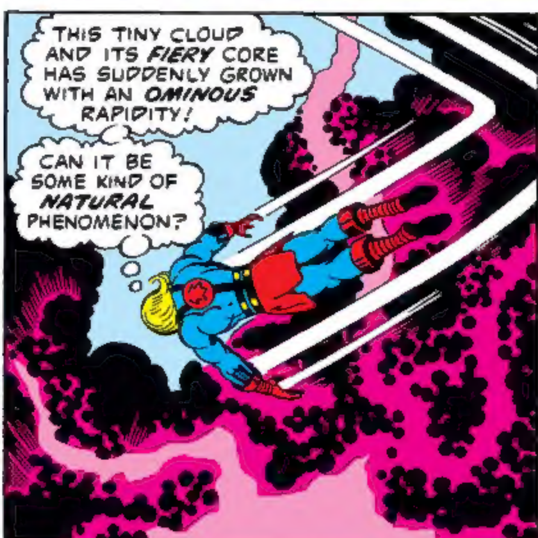

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THIS IS UTTERLY FANTASTIC!
CALM YOURSELF, BRADFORD. IT'S NOT THE MOST UNPLEASANT WAY TO AWAIT THE RETURN OF IKARIS!

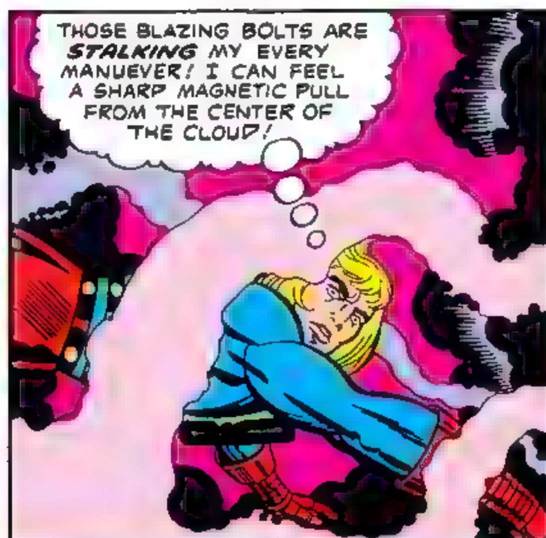

MEANWHILE, IKARIS HAS COMPLETED HIS RECONAISSANCE MISSION AND LEVITATES FROM THE SCENE...
PERHAPS THESE INSCRUTABLE BEINGS WILL DROP THEIR MASKS ONE DAY! UNTIL THEN, WE MUST REMAIN ALERT AND READY!
I'VE GIVEN THE HUMANS A VIEW OF THIS CELESTIAL FROM EVERY ANGLE! LET THEM MAKE OF IT WHAT THEY WILL!

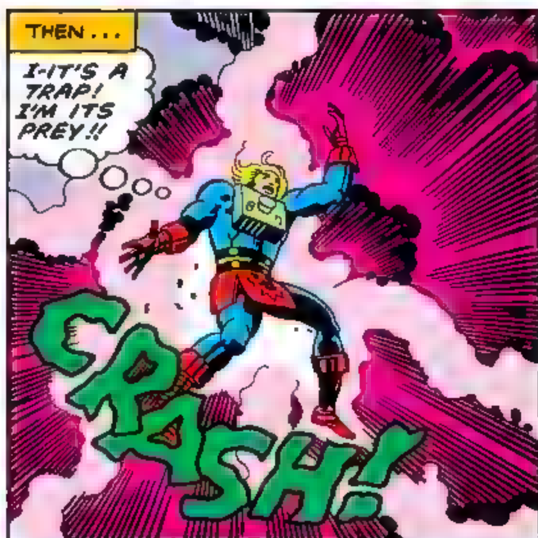

IKARIS SUDDENLY HURTLES TOWARDS THE WIND-SWEPT UPPER STRATAS...
VANISH, CRISIS! FLEE, TENSION! THE SKIES ARE STILL FREE FOR THOSE WHO SEEK PEACE IN ITS BLUE DIMENSIONS!

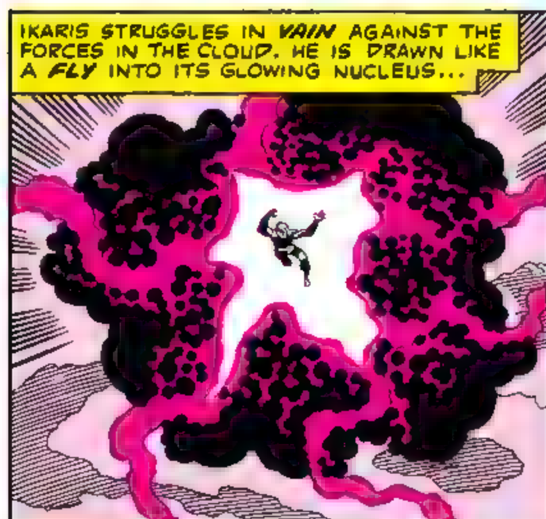

HOW I PITY MY HUMAN BROTHERS WHO ARE DENIED THE JOYS OF LEVITATION FROM THEIR PROBLEMS BELOW!

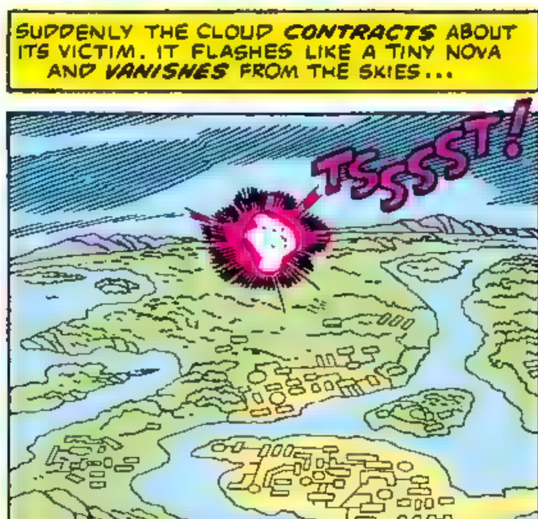

THEN...
CRACKLE!
CORRECTION! THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM BREWING UP HERE!

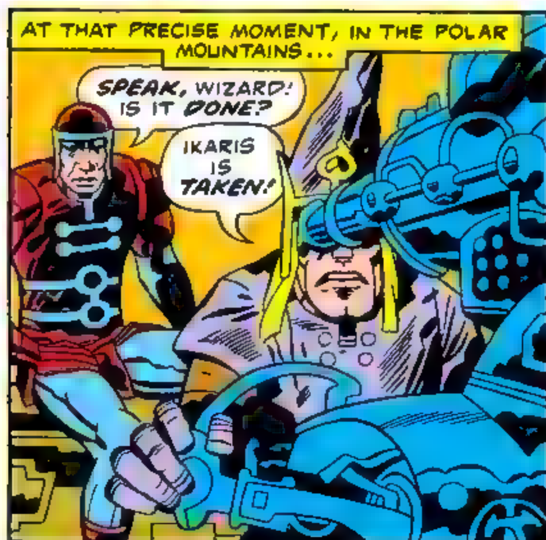

THIS TINY CLOUD AND ITS FIERY CORE HAS SUDDENLY GROWN WITH AN OMINOUS RAPIDITY!
CAN IT BE SOME KIND OF NATURAL PHENOMENON?


THOSE BLAZING BOLTS ARE STALKING MY EVERY MANUEVER! I CAN FEEL A SHARP MAGNETIC PULL FROM THE CENTER OF THE CLOUD!

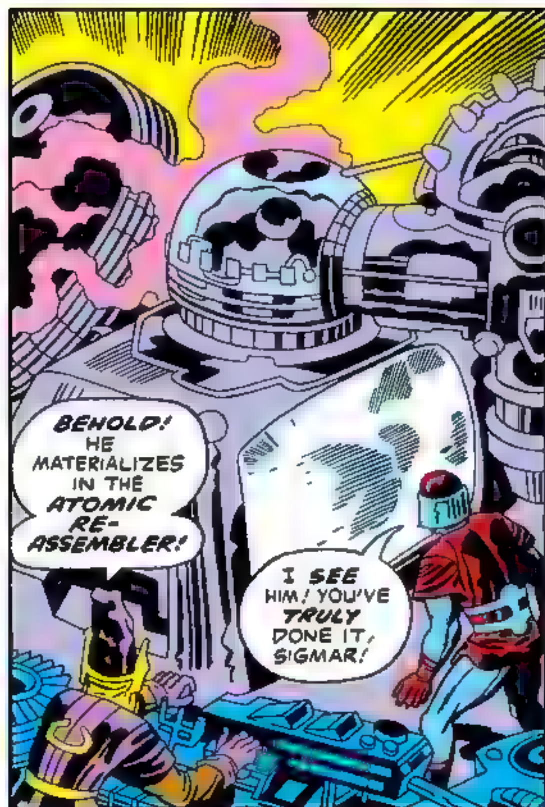

THEN...
I-IT'S A TRAP! I'M ITS PREY!!
CRASH!

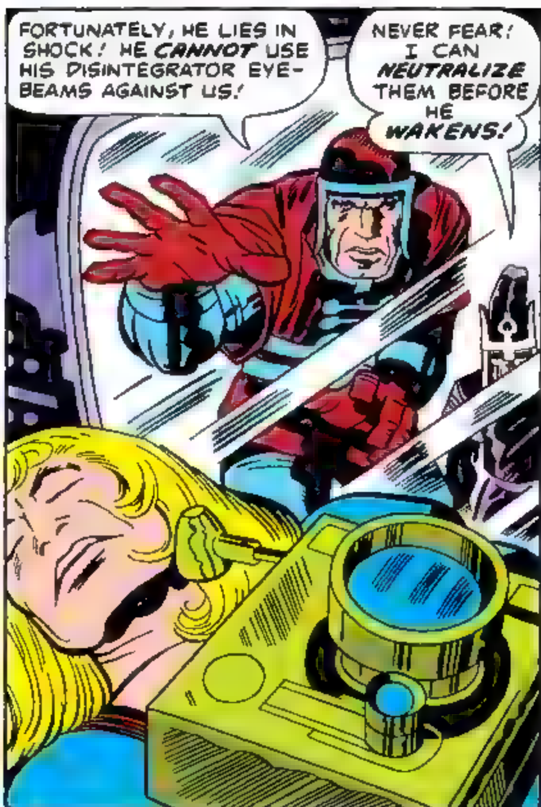

IKARIS STRUGGLES IN VAIN AGAINST THE FORCES IN THE CLOUD. HE IS DRAWN LIKE A FLY INTO ITS GLOWING NUCLEUS...

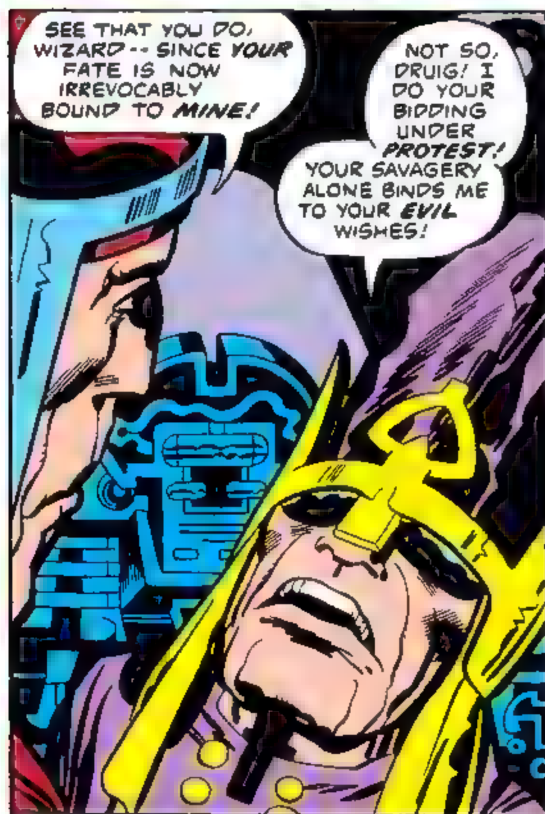

SUDDENLY THE CLOUD CONTRACTS ABOUT ITS VICTIM. IT FLASHES LIKE A TINY NOVA AND VANISHES FROM THE SKIES...
TSSSSST!

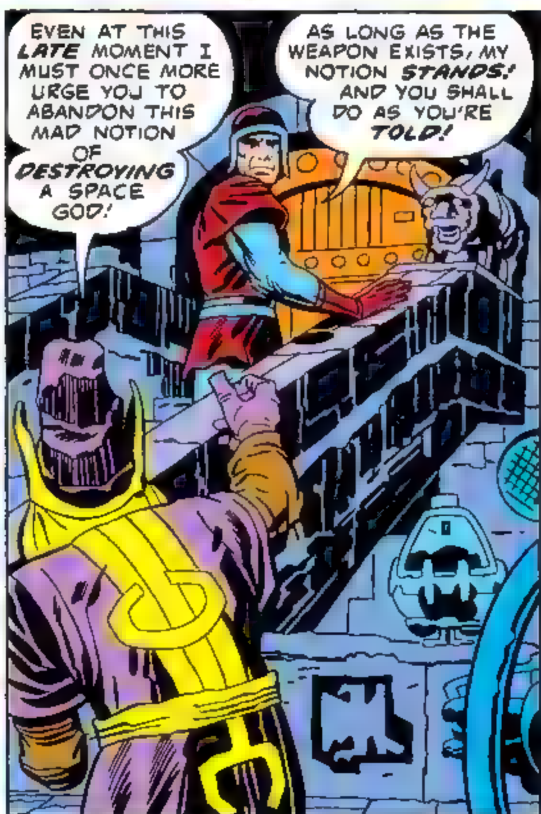

AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, IN THE POLAR MOUNTAINS...
SPEAK, WIZARD! IS IT DONE?
IKARIS IS TAKEN!


THE DIMENSION CLOUD IS TRANSMITTING HIS ATOMS TO THIS VERY LABORATORY AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT!
SAVE THAT GIBBERISH FOR YOUR FELLOW INTELLECTS!
SHOW ME IKARIS!!


BEHOLD! HE MATERIALIZES IN THE ATOMIC RE-ASSEMBLER!
I SEE HIM! YOU'VE TRULY DONE IT, SIGMAR!


FORTUNATELY, HE LIES IN SHOCK! HE CANNOT USE HIS DISINTEGRATOR EYE-BEAMS AGAINST US!
NEVER FEAR! I CAN NEUTRALIZE THEM BEFORE HE WAKENS!


SEE THAT YOU DO, WIZARD -- SINCE YOUR FATE IS NOW IRREVOCABLY BOUND TO MINE!
NOT SO, DRUIG! I DO YOUR BIDDING UNDER PROTEST!
YOUR SAVAGERY ALONE BINDS ME TO YOUR EVIL WISHES!


EVEN AT THIS LATE MOMENT I MUST ONCE MORE URGE YOU TO ABANDON THIS MAD NOTION OF DESTROYING A SPACE GOD!
AS LONG AS THE WEAPON EXISTS, MY NOTION STANDS! AND YOU SHALL DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!

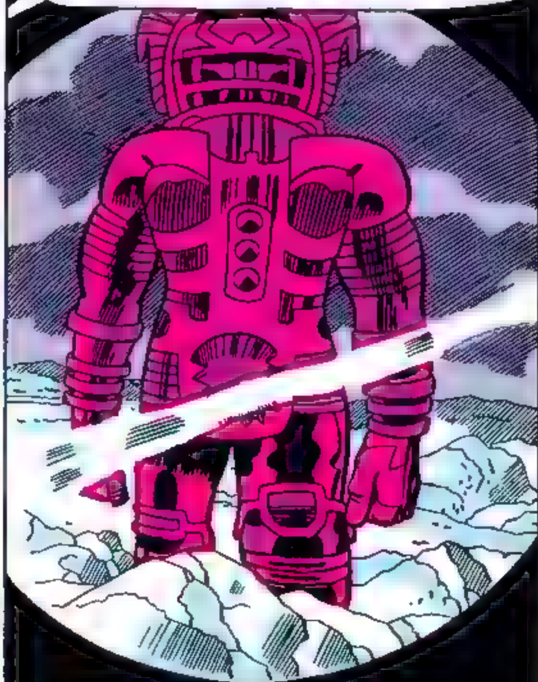
DRUIG STALKS OUT UPON AN OUTSIDE TERRACE TO SURVEY THE FROSTY DOMAIN OF THE POLAR ETERNALS...

THE WEAPON IS *ALMOST* IN MY HANDS! AND ITS TARGET *APPROACHES* FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE ICE MOUNTAINS!

DRUIG HAS GROWN *INCREASINGLY* DISTURBED SINCE THE *CELESTIAL* WAS SIGHTED!

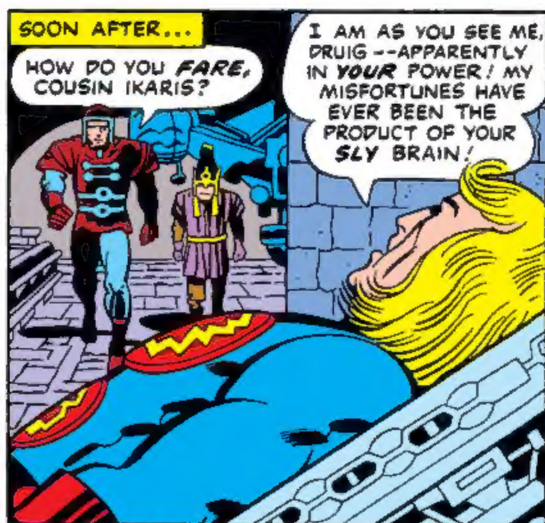
A SPACE GOD IN OUR TERRITORY IS *CERTAIN* TO BRING US DAYS OF DIRE CRISIS!






MY DEED SHALL RAISE ECHOES AROUND THE EARTH! THE NAME OF DRUIG WILL SURPASS EVEN THAT OF MY FATHER VALKIN!
COME, CELESTIAL --AND BE CONQUERED!


AT THAT MOMENT...
ALL IS READY, DRUIG. IKARIS HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR HIS ORDEAL.
WELL DONE, WIZARD! NOW, TO THE TASK!


SOON AFTER...
HOW DO YOU FARE, COUSIN IKARIS?
I AM AS YOU SEE ME, DRUIG --APPARENTLY IN YOUR POWER! MY MISFORTUNES HAVE EVER BEEN THE PRODUCT OF YOUR SLY BRAIN!

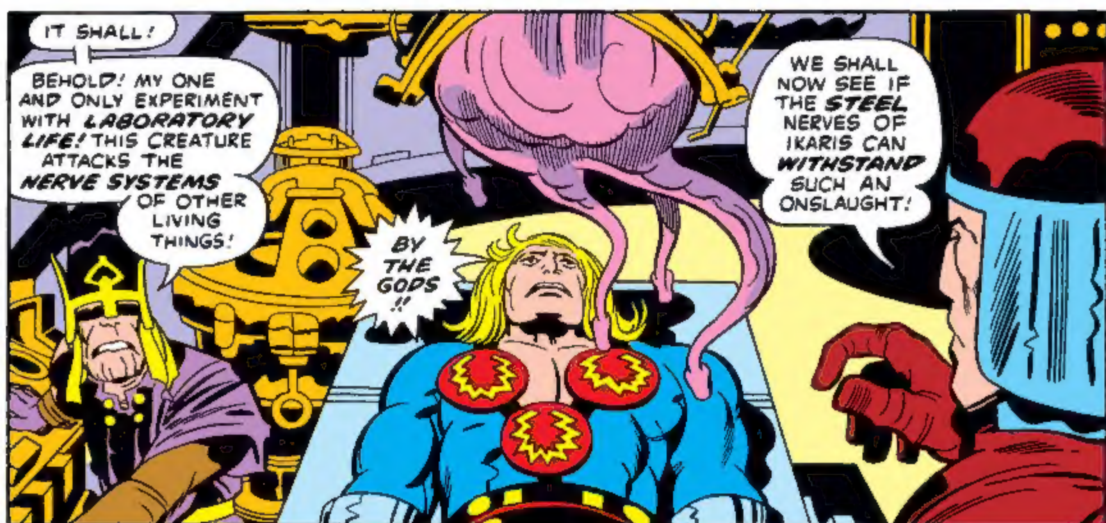

THIS IS NO MERE FAMILY QUARREL! WE PLAY FOR HIGH STAKES, IKARIS! A PRIZE OF COSMIC DIMENSIONS!
HE WANTS THE WEAPON OF THE SPACE GODS! I-I'M UNABLE TO STOP HIM--!

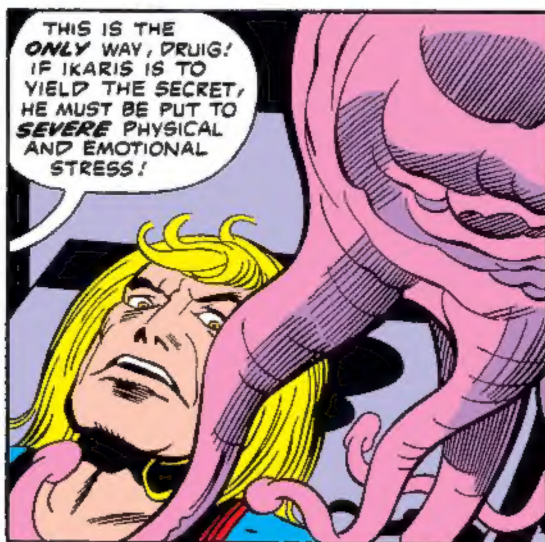

YOU'LL FIND ME A HARDER NUT TO CRACK, DRUIG! I'LL ROT BEFORE I TELL YOU ANYTHING!
AND I CAN SMELL TRIUMPH WHEN YOU BARE YOUR FANGS TOO SOON, COUSIN!


SUDDENLY...
AAAAA--!! HE BIT ME! THE SWINE BIT ME!
WHY PROLONG THIS CHILD'S GAME? DO WHAT MUST BE DONE--AND PUT AN END TO THIS!


YES! WE'LL SEE HOW IKARIS TAKES TO PAIN! RELEASE THE NEURAL BEAST!
FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I MUST DO!
CAN YOU FORGIVE YOURSELF, WIZARD?


SO BE IT!
THE NEURAL BEAST IS AN UNPLEASANT ANIMAL, BUT IT WILL GET THIS OVER WITH QUICKLY!
THE RESULT HAD BETTER PLEASE ME!


IT SHALL!
BEHOLD! MY ONE AND ONLY EXPERIMENT WITH LABORATORY LIFE! THIS CREATURE ATTACKS THE NERVE SYSTEMS OF OTHER LIVING THINGS!
BY THE GODS!!
WE SHALL NOW SEE IF THE STEEL NERVES OF IKARIS CAN WITHSTAND SUCH AN ONSLAUGHT!


THIS IS THE ONLY WAY, DRUIG! IF IKARIS IS TO YIELD THE SECRET, HE MUST BE PUT TO SEVERE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL STRESS!

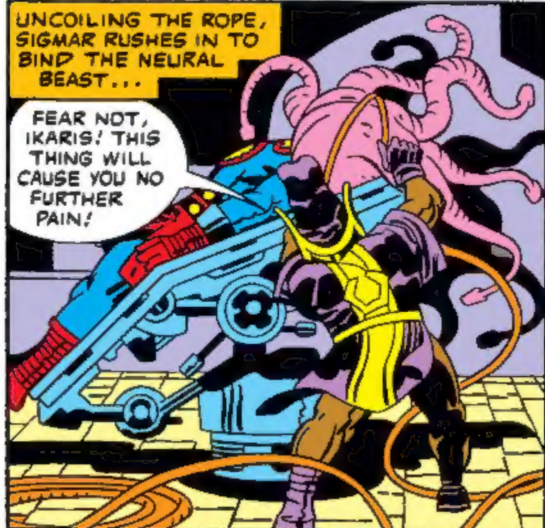

SUDDENLY THE NEURAL BEAST ATTACHES ITS PROBES TO ITS VICTIMS SKULL...
YAAAA!!


STRONG BEAMS OF ELECTRICAL FORCE STAB INTO THE CORE OF NERVES...
EEAAAAA!


I UNDERESTIMATED YOUR HANDIWORK, SIGMAR! AN ARMY COULD NOT DO THIS TO HIM!
I CURSE YOU AND YOUR PLAN!
AAAAAA!!


UURRRRRR!!
COME BACK, YOU WEAKLING!
POOR IKARIS! IT'S TOO MUCH TO BEAR!

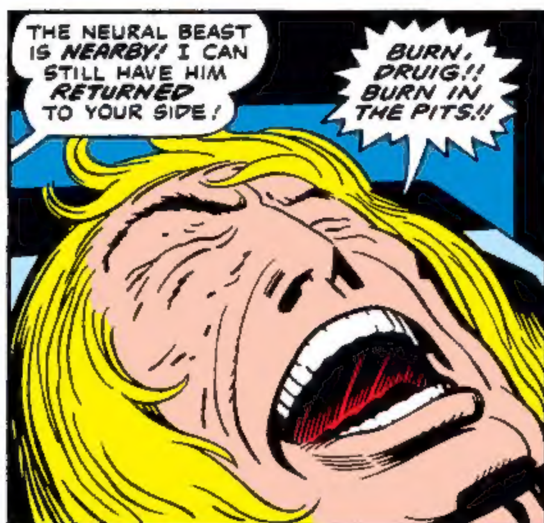

IF YOU HAVEN'T THE SPINE TO SEE THIS THROUGH, I'LL STRAP YOU TO ONE OF YOUR OWN MACHINES!
THERE'S NO NEED OF THAT! THE TASK IS DONE! I INTEND TO REMOVE THE ANIMAL!

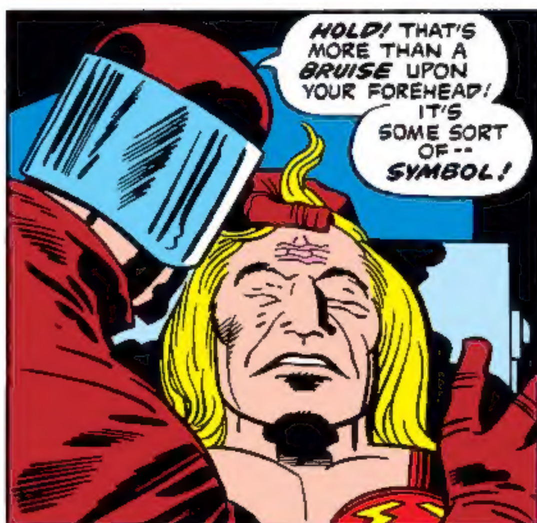

UNCOILING THE ROPE, SIGMAR RUSHES IN TO BIND THE NEURAL BEAST...
FEAR NOT, IKARIS! THIS THING WILL CAUSE YOU NO FURTHER PAIN!


OFF WITH YOU, DEMON-SPAWN! BACK TO THE SANCTUM OF YOUR CAGE!


EXAMINE YOUR COUSIN, DRUIG! LOOK CLOSELY AT HIS FOREHEAD-- FOR A SIGN!
I SEE NOTHING BUT SIGNS OF A FIERCE INNER STRUGGLE!

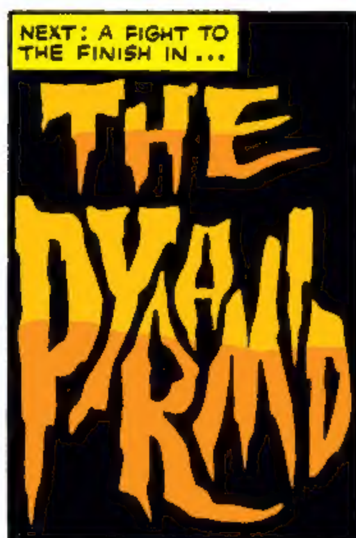

YOU'VE HAD A BAD TIME OF IT, IKARIS! IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY--SAY IT NOW!
BURN WITH YOUR DEMONS, FOUL ONE!


THE NEURAL BEAST IS NEARBY! I CAN STILL HAVE HIM RETURNED TO YOUR SIDE!
BURN, DRUIG!! BURN IN THE PITS!!


HOLD! THAT'S MORE THAN A BRUISE UPON YOUR FOREHEAD!
IT'S SOME SORT OF-- SYMBOL!


IT IS AS SIGMAR PREDICTED! YOUR RAGE HAS BETRAYED THE SECRET YOU CARRY!


THE WEAPON I SEEK IS HIDDEN IN THE PYRAMID OF THE WINDS!
I'VE WON, IKARIS!


NEXT: A FIGHT TO THE FINISH IN ...
THE PYRAMID